Proposal to further revise the rates of royalty on minerals

532. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced the revised rates of royalty on minerals recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the revised rates of royalty are much less than that demanded by Government of Gujarat on various minerals produced in the State;

(d) whether Government have taken any decision for further revising the rates of royalty; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government Gazette Notification GSR No. 214(E) dated 11.4.97 revising the rates of royalty on major minerals (other than Coal and Lignite) has been laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on 5.5.97.

(c) Revision of royalty rates on major minerals (other than Coal and Lignite) was effected on the basis of recommendations of the Study Group constituted for the purpose, wherein the State Govt. of Gujarat was also represented. The Study Group had detailed consultations with the State Govts., mineral industry and other agencies. Investment promotion, stability of royalty regime, parity with the international rates and revenue gain to the State Govts. have been the basic criteria for the revision of the royalty rates.

(d) and (e) As per provision of section 9(3) of the MM(R&D) Act, 1957, the royalty rates cannot be enhanced more than once during any period of three years.

Places identified as tungsten block

533. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified any minor mineral called tungsten in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the name of the place which has been identified as tungsten block?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Geological Survey of India (GSI) has identified occurrences of tungsten deposits in the country.

(b) The details about the occurrences of tungsten identified by GSI are given in the statement (*See below*)

Statement

Details of tungsten prospect/occurrence explored by GSI are given below (statewise):

Rajasthan:		
Dewa-Ka-Bera block, Sirohi district	:	1,35,402 tonnes of tungsten ore with 0.14—0.4% WO 3
Balda block, Sirohi district	:	1,45,392 tonnes with 0.035%—0.5% WO3
Udwarya, Sirohi district	:	62,000 tonnes with 0.27% WO3
Bar Bahra I, Pali district	:	53,254 tonnes with 0.13% WO 3
Degana, Nagaur district	:	50 million tonnes of granite with 0.06% WO 3